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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Bruce E. Kaskel

Art Unit : 2671

Serial No. : 09/765,957

Examiner : Almis R. Jankus

Filed : January 19, 2001

Title : APPROXIMATING GRADIENTS WITH OFFSET MIDPOINTS

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Commissioner for Patents

AUG 25 2003

P.O. Box 1450

GROUP 2600

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN REPLY TO ACTION OF MAY 22, 2003

In reply to the action mailed May 22, 2003, please amend the application as indicated on the following pages. Applicant asks that all claims be allowed in view of the amendment to the claims and remarks contained on the following sheets, a total of 12 pages.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for approximating a gradient, the gradient defining a nonlinear transition from one color or gray level to another in an image where the rate of transition is determined by the function $y = x^e$ where $e > 1$, the method comprising:

identifying an error tolerance;

selecting a starting point and a set point on a curve defined by the function;

defining a linear step from the start point to the set point;

calculating a maximum error between the linear step and the curve;

if the maximum error is less than or equal to the error tolerance,

approximating a portion of the gradient corresponding to the linear step with the linear step,

if the maximum error is more than the error tolerance,

Attorney's Docket No.: 07844-416001
 Client's Ref. No.: P380

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FOR THE PERSONAL ATTENTION OF:
EXAMINER ALMIS R. JANKUS
U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

GROUP 2671 FAX NO: (703) 308-6606

Number of pages including this page 13
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 FACSIMILE COMMUNICATION

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Sir:

Attached to this facsimile communication cover sheet is an Amendment In Reply to Action of May 22, 2003, faxed this 22nd day of August, 2003, to Group 2671, the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Respectfully submitted,

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